

Serial No. 09/735,469  
JJ-11 050US

Page 2

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) A protective covering for shoulder and lap seats belts of motor vehicles, the belts being connected together at a tongue releasably insertable into a latch of a buckle mechanism, the protective covering comprising:

a front and a back with a space therebetween for receiving the shoulder and lap belt,

the covering having a generally truncated triangular shape with the front and back being joined together along two sides with ~~the~~ a third side being open for receiving the shoulder and lap belt,

the junction of the two joined sides being provided with an opening to permit the tongue of the seat belt to pass therethrough and engage the latch of the buckle,

the covering being capable of distributing forces from the shoulder and lap belts over a larger area of the torso of a user upon the belts exerting a force on a user of the belt wherein the third side is provided with releasable securing means to permit the front and back to be releasably secured to one another after the belts are received therebetween, the releasable securing means permitting the adjustment of ~~the size of the third side to vary~~ the spacing between the shoulder and lap belts at the third side to ~~accommodate~~ accommodate different sizes of users.

3. (original) A protective covering according to claim 2 wherein the releasable securing means are selected from the group consisting of zipper closures, hook and loop closures, dome fasteners and buttons.

4. (original) A protective covering according to claim 3 wherein the releasable securing means are dome fasteners.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously amended) A protective covering according to claim 4 wherein the opening between the two joined sides is provided with a means for retaining the tongue portion

Serial No. 09/735,469  
JJ-11 050US

Page 3

in position in the opening between the first and second sides when released from the latch.

7.(original) A protective covering according to claim 6 wherein the means for retaining the tongue is selected from dome fasteners or an elastic ring positioned to engage the tongue at the junction with the shoulder and lap belts.

8.(original) A protective covering according to claim 7 wherein the opening between the two joined sides is provided with an elastic mesh cover to cover the latch release button when the tongue engages the latch of the buckle.